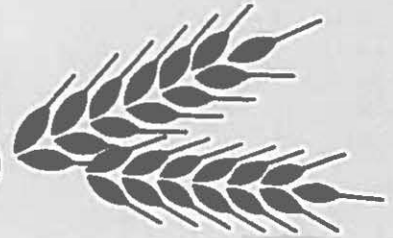


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

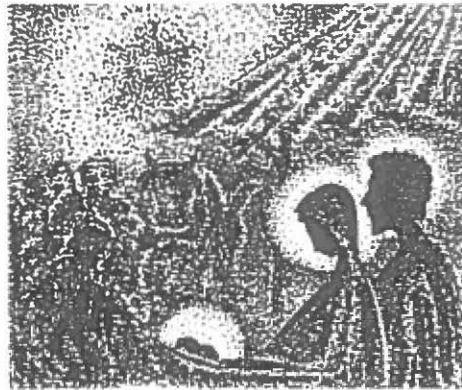
In Focus



Celebrating Christmas, the Gospel of Divine Life

Christmas finally arrives, celebrated in film versions of the meanness of Scrooge, the cure of Amahl by the Night Visitors, Rudolph's journeys, angels on trees. Countless objects illumined by lights and tinsel point to the crib at Bethlehem.

The stories about Tiny Tim or the Little Drummer Boy want to echo the story of Jesus' nativity. They begin with someone who is weak, poor, powerless, someone socially insignificant who is threatened. The poor person encounters a somewhat miraculous force that cures, liberates, or enriches. Over against the person's misery stand disinterested but powerful or wealthy people. A miracle occurs—an angel appears, magi stop by, three spirits educate—and the poor and weak are made rich and whole.



But if we look closely at the true Christmas Story, we see that Jesus, despite his birth on a journey and his flight to safety in a foreign land, does not dispense miracles to the shepherds or the wise men. Yet human beings do search and are needy in many ways (we are not just ill or poor or weak), and the Word in human form is something extraordinary and that Incarnation does take place to help us.

The birth of Jesus is a proclamation and affirmation and consecration. It is

not a brief miracle but very much a revelation disclosing not just our neediness or the painful limitations of life on earth but the plan of God for all people, the present status of men and women, and the positive future of the human race.

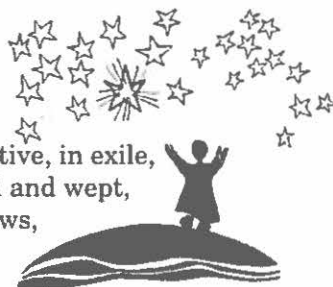
The Incarnation—the Word beginning to live in one human being—is a statement that God loves the human race, loves it so much that God becomes one of us. The Incarnation intensifies the message of Genesis that we are the image of God. Now we are also the friends of God (in Jesus' words). The Christmas message of the Incarnation is a statement about each man and woman, so loved by God that God's Word and Spirit are present to us in some

See *Celebrating Christmas* on page 5

Promised Song

by Roberta Porter

Banished to Babylon, captive, in exile,
God's people remembered and wept,
hung their harps on willows,
and would not sing.



But God spoke through Jeremiah the prophet—
"I know the plans I have for you . . .
plans for your welfare and not for harm
to give you a future and a hope."
And God's people sang again.

Rescued and returned
by Jesus Christ, God's promised One,
let us today continue to trust
in God's future and hope.
Let us proclaim to the world
the good news of God's unfailing faithfulness,
and out of gratitude for this gift—
forever sing.

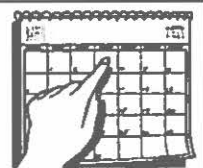
—From *Alive Now*, January/February 2006
Used with permission

January "Specials"

Jan. 18:
Martin Luther King commemoration,
film and discussion, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
"Special Treasures," appraisals, 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 22:
Hymn Festival, 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Prayer Vigil, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Roe v Wade Ecumenical Prayer Vigil Service, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 29:
Exploring Your Faith: What Makes Our Faith Unique?
1:30-3:00 p.m.



Catholic teens “connect”

On Dec. 11, 122 teens from the Champaign vicariate (26 of them from St. Patrick's) gathered at The High School of St. Thomas More to participate in the Catholic Teen Connection (CTC). The theme of this gathering was a Mexican Fiesta in celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast would be observed the following day.

The event began with a Mass, with music provided by The Dori's, a Christian band from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Gibson City (Ill.). In the entrance procession teens carried a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe and roses to place by it.

After Mass the teens participated in a couple of ice breakers, one of which was a small Christmas Trivia competition to determine first place in line for dinner! Teens and adult chaperones dived into their dinner of burritos, chips and salsa, brownies, and drinks.

Dinner was followed by a brief presentation by Fr. Joe Dondanville, chaplain of St. Thomas More, on Our Lady of Guadalupe. He began by explaining the Church's procedures for investigation of visions, a long and thoughtful process that may—or may not—result in acceptance of the vision and a place in the liturgical calendar.

He then related the story of Juan



Diego's vision of Mary, who appeared to him on Dec. 9, 1531, as a young Indian maiden and directed that he tell the bishop of her request that a church be built on that very spot. Rejecting him at first, the bishop was finally convinced when Juan Diego returned a third time to repeat Mary's request, this time with his tilma (a sort of cape) filled with roses, a miracle of sorts in itself given the time of year, which he had gathered at Mary's feet. When he opened his tilma to present the roses, it was found to be imprinted with the image of the Lady.

Among the many interesting facts Fr. Dondanville related that are associated with this apparition of Mary was the conversion of millions of Aztec Indians—within just six years over nine million Indians were baptized—attributed to Mary's presentation of herself in terms of compassion and solidarity with the poor, and surrounded by imagery of deep significance to them. And Juan Diego's tilma, which centuries later still carries the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, survived a bombing that destroyed both the altar and the cross in the church dedicated to her but left the tilma intact.

The next Catholic Teen Connection will take place on Feb. 12 at St. Patrick's Parish.

Exploring your faith

On a Sunday afternoon (Jan. 29, 1:30-3 p.m.) take a little time to discover or relish the unique facets of our Catholic faith. This is an opportunity to come together with others on a faith journey, a chance to learn, pray, discuss. The afternoon includes prayer, a presentation, food, fellowship, and song.

During Lent you will be able to continue adult faith explorations by:

- Joining a Disciples in Mission small group, coming together with other parishioners to focus on the Sunday Gospels
- Participating in the Faith and Films series (on Fridays after the fish fry, Mar. 3 through Apr. 7), viewing, reflecting, and discussing biblical themes with other searchers choosing a reading from the parish library as a Lenten study



Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Danielle J. Turk and Mark Eugene Lowry, and Kelly Marie Zimmerman and Anthony Cole Hutchings.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Emily Jeanette Elsbernd, Nathan Willis Elsbernd, Nathaniel James Roth, Anna Clark, McGuire Nelson Atwood, Lucas Jackson Pankau, Jay Christopher Saunders, and Jackie Bang Khanh Le.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Kevin Paul Stanford and Marlene Martindale.

Also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish.

Let your presence be your witness

The annual Candlelight Prayer Vigil for the Unborn, which takes place on Jan. 22, anniversary of the *Roe v Wade* court decision, will begin at 6:00 p.m. at

the Women's Health Practice, directly north of Biaggi's Restaurant at 2125 S. Neil St., Champaign. Electric candles will be provided for participants. The vigil usually lasts about an hour and almost always receives news coverage; your



presence will be an effective witness in support of life!

The annual ecumenical prayer vigil commemorating the anniversary will be held at the

Windsor Road Christian Church, 2501 W. Windsor Rd., Champaign. The vigil service begins at 7:30 p.m., with a reception to follow. If you can participate in it, you will be a presence for St. Patrick's as well as for the local community.

From Dr. Susan Nagele

Dear friends,

Greetings to each and every one of you. This year has flown by, and I am wondering where it all went!

In January we renovated the outpatient department in the hospital, and I now have my own office with a door I can shut and lock. That's important for giving privacy to the patients; otherwise, people would just walk in, regardless of what I was doing. The patient flow and use of space is much better as well.

In February Sr. Jyothi and Sr. Mary from The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in India came to be our administrator and matron, respectively. They have made many good improvements, and we are happy to be working with them.

In March I made a trip back to southern Sudan to visit the parish where I last worked. People were happy to see me again, and the missionaries who are still there continue to do great work and are improving the pastoral, educational, and health services for the people. I didn't see much improvement in the local administration. On Jan. 9 the rebels signed a peace agreement with the government in Khartoum, and I was hoping to see some progress from their side for development. But I suppose those things will take time, and I did realize that for the first time in 21 years there was no more active war, and that was a wonderful feeling.

In April I went back to the States and our family celebrated my parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful gathering, and we were grateful that we were all able to be together, the whole family. In May I gave some mission talks and did some fundraising for our Maryknoll Association, and then returned to Kenya. Again, I found the hospital running well in my absence.

The number of patients is increasing, and in June we had a big outbreak of malaria. Often the beds

were full. The health coordinator of the Diocese had begun to renovate two large rooms while I was gone. These are now finished, and the beds and furniture should arrive any day. We will now have bigger and brighter wards for the women and children.

In October we received a new ultrasound machine. Anke Wayers, an ultrasound specialist from Holland, came for two weeks to teach us how to use it. We feel like we have learned the basic foundations of scanning and will have a lot of practice to improve our skills. We will be concentrating mainly on pregnant women. Already we have made several important diagnoses, and so it will be a big help in improving our services.

After all of these activities it is time to take a break and do some reflection. Soon I will be going on a retreat and take some time to be with God. I will keep all of you in my prayer. Thanksgiving will soon be coming up as well. It's a good time to tell each of you how grateful we are for your love, concern, and support for our ministry here. I hope you and your families know how much we appreciate it and wish you a very Happy Turkey Day!

God bless,



Susan, the daughter of parishioners Lenore and Tom Nagele, has served as a lay missionary in Africa as part of the Maryknoll program for several years. Her letter is dated Nov. 4. Correspondence may be addressed to Dr. Susan Nagele, Box 2406, Kitale 30200, Kenya.

If you wish to donate, please send your check to Maryknoll Lay Missioners, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-030. Make your check payable to MMAF and on your check's memo line write "Campaign Code: AFRICA."



Dr. Susan Nagele at the hospital, where both mother and child receive treatment for AIDS.

STM in the news

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has announced the 2006 Illinois State Scholar finalists. The Illinois State Scholars program recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding

academic achievement. "These students should be very proud of their accomplishments. The Commission congratulates them and wishes them the best as they continue their education," stated Larry E. Matejka, ISAC's Executive Director.



Students ranking in the top ten percent of the state's 139,500 high school graduating seniors have been named Illinois State Scholars. Selection is based on SAT I and/or ACT test score results and/or the students' class rank at the end of the junior year of high school.

Among the 17 St. Thomas More students named as Illinois State Scholars are two from St. Patrick's: **Samuel Altaner** and **Rosemary Keane**. Congratulations on this recognition of your achievements!



Q: Christmas seems to end with a thud on Dec. 26. Does it have to be that way?

A: No, it doesn't have to be that way. Christmas, in a secular sense, does seem to end abruptly. We spend the weeks leading up to it shopping and gifting, cooking and baking, cleaning and decorating. This isn't bad; these activities can help us build relationships with family and friends and be a help to the poor. But it's easy to get lost in them, focusing on the day of Christmas instead of on the One whose day it is.

The Church does things differ-

ently. We spend the days leading up to Christmas remembering how badly the world needed Emmanuel, God with us. Then, beginning with the celebration of God's coming in the flesh, we begin to ponder how the presence of God changes everything for us. Pondering isn't a speedy business; the celebration of Christmas continues during the ensuing days as we savor what God has done for us, specially highlighted in three feasts of the season.

First, Christmas itself. If you have forgotten the audacity of God's coming among us as a human being and making himself vulnerable to poverty, cruelty, pain, and indifference, then there may be much more in this feast for you to ponder.

Second, the feast of the Epiphany

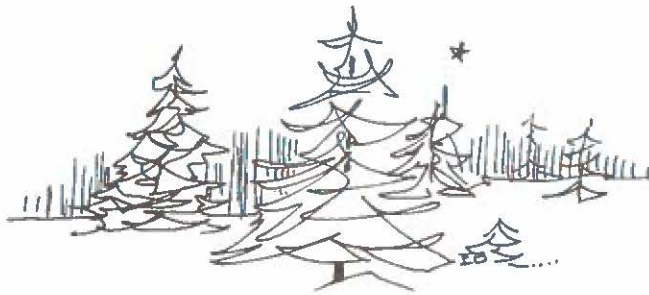
(Jan. 8) raises the important question "Who will be affected by God's coming?" The answer is, everyone! Not just God's chosen people, the Jews. Not just the people of that time. God came for every one of us.

Finally, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (celebrated this year on Monday, Jan. 9) invites us to ponder "Who is Jesus?" John the Baptist points him out as the Messiah. The Father names Jesus as his son. But these words weren't spoken in private; they were heard by many people, so that all of us can come to know who Jesus is.

If you've been incredibly busy for the past month or more, don't despair—you still have time to savor Christmas!

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Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.



Vietnamese to celebrate Tet

Tet Nguyen Dan, the Feast of the First Morning, is the most important and picturesque of Vietnamese holidays. It's equal to the American Christmas, New Year, Easter, and Fourth of July combined. It marks the beginning of both the lunar new year and spring, and usually falls in late January or early February. This year it falls on Jan. 29, 2006, the beginning of the Year of the Dog.

Tet is a feast of sounds, perfumes, and colors. Warm, lively colors are displayed in shop windows and houses, in new clothes made for the occasion, and in special foods prepared for the celebration. The sounds of sweet music and the noise of firecrackers, as well as the perfume of flowers and the pungent odor of incense, fill the air. All combine to reveal the splendor of nature and the joy of living.

During Tet, everyone wants to be at his own home, which should be sparkling clean and full of flowers. Tet is a time for giving, for paying off debts, correcting faults, forgetting past mistakes, forgiving others, and no longer having enemies. Vietnamese want to pay off debts before the end of the lunar year, as it is bad luck to owe money during Tet. Employers give their employees bonuses.

At midnight on New Year's Eve, a ceremony is held in which a sacrifice is offered for the spirits and the ancestors. Ancestors are invited to come back for a few days and share in the festivities with the living members of the family. At exactly midnight, firecrackers welcome in the New Year.

The next morning, the family members dress in new clothing,

place dishes of special foods on the altar, and offer each other New Year's wishes. The children are given red packets of "lucky money" to buy toys and candies. Great importance is attached to the first visitor, who is believed to influence the happiness, well-being, and prosperity of the family during the entire year. (Some Vietnamese who do not want to leave anything to chance may invite their first guest for the occasion!)

On the third day of Tet, the Vietnamese believe their ancestors return to their heavenly abode. Stores begin to reopen, and life returns to normal.

The local Vietnamese community will gather at St. Patrick's on Feb. 6 to celebrate their New Year, the Year of the Dog.

St. Prisca, evangelizer

How would you like to have St. Paul for a houseguest—and for three years? That's what Prisca (Priscilla), a very interesting woman of the New Testament, and her husband, Aquila, did when they lived in Ephesus.

Prisca and Aquila were tentmakers, as Paul was, and it is evident that they were very dear to him. They were Jews who had lived in Rome and came to Corinth when the emperor Claudius commanded all Jews to leave Rome. Although how and when they were converted to Christianity is unknown, they met Paul when he first came to Corinth, and later accompanied him to Ephesus.

In Ephesus they established a church in their home that included gentile as well as Jewish Christians. There they instructed Apollo, the Alexandrian, who became important in the early Church. They later returned to Rome—probably encouraged by news of the installation of a new emperor, Nero—where their house again became the meeting place of the local church.

Prisca and Aquila are mentioned in the book of Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, and 2 Timothy. Sometimes Prisca is named first, sometimes Aquila, an indication that they held equal status. In his letter to the Romans (16:3-5), Paul wrote: "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I am grateful but also all the churches of the Gentiles; greet also the church at their house."

They were model Christians, very effective in spreading the Gospel and known to be friendly, hospitable, and generous with their wealth. In the end, however, their hope of finding tolerance in Nero's Rome was misplaced. According to tradition Prisca and Aquila perished in the general persecution that occurred around the year 64. Although no longer acknowledged in the Church's official calendar of saints, Jan. 18 is mentioned as the feast of St. Prisca.

Celebrating Christmas (from page one)

of the ways they were present in Jesus. all."

Christmas is not first of all about St. Nicholas or the Magi but belief in the reality of God touching us. Our consecration as a human being loved and empowered by God is a condition, a promise, and a destiny that never leaves us but is always silently speaking to us about our life.

This reality of the Word in Jesus as well as in us underlies all stories and people and events and symbols. Christmas celebrates not so much a baby (powerless but potentially a magician) but a human being. It celebrates not so much a birthday as a new presence of the Word in a lengthy human salvation history. Christmas stories and symbols point not to misery or personal improvement but to the enduring and universal quality of God's love. "The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to

Christmas proclaims a dramatic beginning to a history of grace on a grand scale. The Word takes on humanness in the mode of a baby, and the shepherds and magi stand for all people, all religions. They come to learn more about the one who will eventually be the teacher and center of history. This birth does not initiate a small sect of the saved but proclaims and affirms a long and complex history in which God is working ceaselessly within a love given to each of us, to each man and woman and child.

The Incarnation is the ultimate statement of how and how much God loves us. And in loving one another, we love God, because each and all of us are the brothers and sisters of the Incarnate Word.

This is Christmas, this its message.



in our parish library

Have you been thinking about your New Year's resolutions yet? How about exploring social justice issues or expanding your knowledge of other faiths? The St. Patrick's Social Action Committee has donated several videos to the parish library. Here's a sampling of several produced by Maryknoll, the Catholic mission movement. You'll find these and others on top of the bookshelves on the south wall of the library.

Mosque (Video 207 MOS). Learn more about the Islamic way of life; one that over 900 million people follow. This video explores the common links among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Mano con Mano: Stories of Solidarity (Video 261 MAN). Two U.S. couples take up the Church's call for global solidarity and launch themselves into a new way of life, working in solidarity with parishes in El Salvador.

Coming to Say Goodbye (Video 362 COM). See the stories of people in

Kenya and Tanzania living with HIV/AIDS, and learn more about this modern plague. Included are commentaries by church workers, medical professionals, social workers, and educators who stand by those suffering, especially the thousands of children orphaned by AIDS. The video leads us to reflect on the personal and structural aspects of the AIDS pandemic in Africa: poverty, lack of access to treatment, and the extraordinary social cost.

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If you need help locating books or materials in the library or want to know whether the library has something on a subject of special interest, you may contact Frances Drone-Silvers (francesds@yahoo.com or 398-1458), library coordinator. She will be pleased to help.

Bring your special treasures

St. Patrick's Guild is sponsoring its own version of "Antiques Roadshow," calling the event "Special Treasures," on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. in the parish center's main hall. Parishioners Barb Peckham and her son, Matthew, both professional appraisers, will be doing the appraisals.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to have your treasures appraised—that special lamp you found at a garage sale that you think may be worth far more than the paltry sum you paid for it, the necklace you inherited from a favorite aunt, the tea table with unusual carvings and inlays, the painting that has come down through several generations in your family. You just never know...

If the item you want to bring is difficult to move, you can bring a photo of it for them to look at. Of course, the better the picture, the more accurate the appraisal.

A highlight of the evening will be the raffle of a vase. The hand-painted Nippon vase is from the mid-Victorian period and has an appraised value of \$75. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$2 each.

Barb and her husband, Jim, are the proprietors of Peckham Estate Sales and Appraisers. Barb says that they really do have an "Antiques Roadshow" connection. In 2001 they sold a highboy to the Kino twins, Leigh and Leslie, who often do appraisals on the show and who also have their own PBS television program, called "Find!" Afterward, the twins took them out to dinner.

No admission fee, no reservations. Light refreshments will be served.

It should be great fun! Come, one and all!



Leslie Risatti displays the Nippon vase, a "Special Treasure" to be raffled off.

They came to ask forgiveness



Early in the Church's new year, on Nov. 29 parish youngsters who had been preparing for the occasion with their families for several weeks received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in a special service planned for them.

The youngsters sang, prayed, listened to a Gospel reading, made an examination of conscience and an act of contrition, and finally were called forward with their families to receive this healing sacrament.

Welcomed to their First Reconciliation were Bernard Arend, Nicholas Arroyo, Paul Berlocher, Stephanie Connolly, L. John D'Andria, Macie Dodd, Cristian Garnier, Paloma Gonzalez, Abbie Izard, Lyndsay McArthur, Ashlynn McConaha, Cora McQueen, Alec Menees, Hannah Monk, Joey Orr, Matthew Sandwick, Robert Stavins, Piotrus Sweich, and Austin Williams.

"For the times when we've been rude and selfish, for the times when we have been unkind, and for the times we refused to help our friends in need, we ask your forgiveness, O Lord."

So say we all. Amen.



VOCATION PRAYER

Spirit of new life, may this Christmas season enable us to make the kingdom of God more present as the Gospel takes flesh in our lives. Inspire our young people to echo Mary's "yes" and consider being ministers of your Word and sacraments.

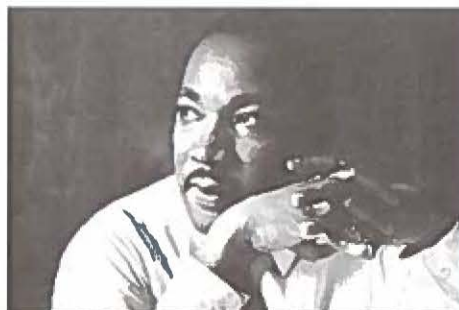
Commemorating Martin Luther King's Birthday

St. Patrick's Social Action Committee will help to commemorate the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by showing the documentary film *At the River I Stand*. The one-hour film centers on the 1968 Memphis (Tenn.) garbage workers' strike, when Dr. King diverted time from his Poor People's Campaign to join the striking workers in their struggle. The film contains footage of excerpts of King's "I've been to the mountain top" speech, given to the strikers and their families the night before he was murdered. It shows clergy and people of faith working with the strikers against tremendous odds through their vindication and victory.

The program will be presented on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7-8:30 p.m., in

the multipurpose room. Following the documentary, parishioner Ron Peters will lead a discussion on the meaning of the film as it relates to Christian teachings and our duty to the downtrodden and less fortunate in our society.

Refreshments will be served. All parishioners and the general public are invited.



“Calling Disciples” in song and story

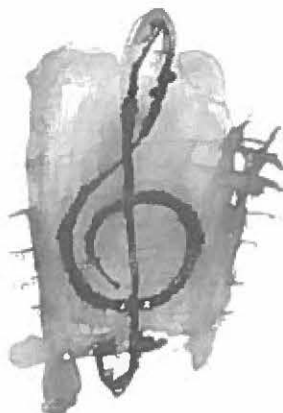
St. Patrick's parishioners, and members of the general public, are invited to a hymn festival Sunday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m. This prayer service will include scripture readings, hymns, and prayers organized on the theme “Calling Disciples.”

Scriptures will include that morning's Gospel, in which Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow him; God's call to the prophet Isaiah; and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples at the first Pentecost. Hymns will include “Lord, You Give the Great Commission,” “Here I Am, Lord,” and many others old and new.

A hymn festival is much more than a concert. The congregation will be invited to take an active role by singing many of the hymns. Hymns will be sung with organ and piano

accompaniment and a *cappella*; in unison and in harmony; by alternating parts and by everyone at once. The congregation will have the support of choir members, cantors, and instrumentalists from St. Patrick's music ministry.

This hymn festival is offered as part of the local American Guild of



Organists chapter's Organ Vespers series. On this day St. Patrick's will host guests from the Champaign-Urbana area, including many musicians working in other Christian churches. Come, sing, and welcome these visitors to our church!

The American Guild of Organists is a national professional organization that promotes the organ and choral music fields. Membership includes organists, clergy, organ builders, and music lovers. The Organ Vespers series, sponsored by our local AGO chapter, the East Central Illinois chapter, presents sacred music from a variety of traditions and is open to all the music-loving public. The next event in this series will take place Sunday, Mar. 5, at the Episcopal Chapel of St. John the Divine.

Brother Lawrence and the presence of God

Brother Lawrence was born Nicholas Herman in French Lorraine in 1611. He came from a humble background and had little or no formal education. As a young man, he was involved in the military conflict between Lorraine and a neighboring German area. Captured, he managed to convince his captors that he was not a spy and so was eventually set free. In a later battle he was wounded and returned to his parents' home to recover.

After leaving the military, Nicholas became a footman to the treasurer of the King of France, Louis XIV, the Sun King. After seeking advice from his uncle, a member of the Carmelite Order, he sought the solitude of a hermit's life. He found his emotions running the gamut from joy and peace to sadness and agitation, and from fervor of devotion to complete dryness. It wasn't long before he decided that this was not the life for him. In 1649 he presented himself to the Carmelites in Paris, where he was admitted as a lay brother and given the name Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection.

The community put great emphasis on prayer and meditation. Its constitution prescribed three hours of prayer

daily, and at least one of them was to be spent “reading aloud the point to be meditated on during the mental prayer that followed.” In his early days in religious life, he spent much of his prayer time rejecting stray thoughts and then falling back into them again.

His solution to this difficulty was so effective and yet so simple that it can be practiced by everyone: the habit of continual conversation with God. He focused his heart and mind on God, thanking him, praising him, and asking for the grace to do whatever task had to be performed. If he allowed himself to forget God, then he asked forgiveness and drew his thoughts back

to God. In this way he was able to do work for which he had an aversion, and to do it with cheerfulness, even thankfulness.

Brother Lawrence spent forty years in the monastery kitchen chopping vegetables and scrubbing pots, and there he died at the age of eighty. He accomplished no great deeds and left no writings beyond a handful of letters. Were it not for the impression he made on M. de Beaufort, a visiting official on the staff of the cardinal of Paris, who happened to initiate conversation with him, his life would be a total obscurity, one of the anonymous saints of everyday life who, for all we know, are secretly at work redeeming the world. As he liked to observe, God “regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.”

Brother Lawrence's counsels are contained in four “conversations” and a brief collection of “spiritual maxims” found among his belongings after his death and later published by de Beaufort in a book as meaningful today as it ever was, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. It is Brother Lawrence's gift to all of us.



Holy Cross Happenings



A New Baby: Yet another new arrival at Holy Cross! Mrs. Crystal McCullough (music teacher) and her

husband, Joe, welcomed Caleb Michael into the world on Friday, Nov. 11. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and has lots and lots of black hair. He is healthy and doing quite well at a month old.

First-Quarter Honor Roll: 83 students in grades 5-8 qualified for the First-Quarter Honor Roll; 16 of those students are from St. Patrick's Parish: **Highest Honors:** Kaleigh Niccum, Andy Wszalek; **High Honors:** Maddy Kangas, Sarah Johnson, Will Justice, Theresa Welle, Breanna Wickert, Luke Cottingham, Cora Freidhof, Claire Drone-Silvers, Gracie Mayer, Caitlyn Schutz; **Honors:** Dana Williams, Matt Melander, Sam Noonan, Tayler Stipes.

Hurricane Relief Efforts: Holy Cross School has chosen St. John's School in Gulfport, Mississippi, as the place to direct its hurricane relief efforts. Mrs. Tate is in contact with the principal of the school to learn ways that Holy Cross can be helpful. At the Book Fair during the parent-teacher conferences, parents and students were asked to contribute to the fund to purchase new books for their library. Over \$500 was generously donated, an amount that was in addition to the \$1500 donated to Catholic Relief Services when Hurricane Katrina first hit the Gulf Coast.

Advent: Several classes directed their Advent projects toward St. John's School in Gulfport, Mississippi. First-graders will send donated money to the school to help with replacement of books in first-grade classrooms. Many other classes will be helping as well.

Adopt-a-Family: Third- and seventh-graders will adopt a family through Catholic Charities this year for their Advent project. They want to focus their efforts on helping those within our own community in many ways, with clothes, food, and gifts for children at the holidays. Each class will collect money and then purchase items for the given ages. This is a project that has been done in years past.

New Computers: In November, Holy Cross School was able to purchase 24 new eMacs computers for the computer lab. The PTC contributed \$10,000 toward this purchase, with the balance coming from the \$1,500 Exxon-Mobile grant and the Barb Yount Memorial Fund.



Mark Your Calendars

- Jan. 3: School resumes
- Jan. 4: Box Top Collection Day
- Jan. 5: PTC meeting, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 6: All-school Mass, 8:15 a.m.
- Jan. 11: Fifth-Grade band concert
- Jan. 13: End of second quarter; noon dismissal
- Jan. 16: No school
- Jan. 20: All-school Mass, 8:15 a.m.
- Jan. 21: Market Day
- Jan. 27: All-school Mass, 8:15 a.m.
- Jan. 30: Catholic Schools Week begins
- Jan. 30: Mass at St. Thomas More
- Jan. 31: Kindergarten Roundup



Christmas Expo drew crowds of shoppers!



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is January 15.

CREW spreads Christmas cheer at Catholic Worker House

Following their Christmas party, where they dined on Jimmy John's and played holiday games, CREW teens journeyed to St. Jude Catholic Worker



House to spread Christmas cheer both inside and outside this House of Hospitality. In short order, 14 teens decorated the front parlor, dining room, and front porch with lights, tinsel, and a small Christmas tree.

Participating teens included Christine and Aimee Black, Laura Kammel, Gina Roussos, Robie Kimmey, Tom Brown, Liz Bazar, Hannah Noonan, Tim Anderson, Anna Mayer, Catherine Keane, Anne Kingston, Sam Friedhof, and Paige

Whippo. Coordinator Peggy Loftus pitched in as well—and provided the accompanying photos for your enjoyment.



Are you getting the most out of Mass?

David Philippart, in "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Mass-Goers," lists seven steps that let the Mass do its work on us. The first, summarized in the December issue of *In Focus*, was to "enter into mystery." The second of these is to "sing for your supper."

Choirs and cantors and instrumentalists are there to lead and to help, not to perform. We are there not to be entertained, but to sing. Singing together blends many voices into one, the great voice of the Body of Christ.

Singing together is a great experience, one that is catchy—when we are among others who sing out, we are encouraged to sing out ourselves. Assembling as Church at liturgy gives us an opportunity rarely found in our technological culture: an opportunity to make music with our voices, to sing

together.

There is a power in our common song to spread joy to hearts that are without joy, to share sorrow so that the burden is lighter for all, to give voice to hope and yearning and gratitude and love that words alone cannot express.

When you next are presented with this opportunity, make music with your voice, sing out. Sing out with the Body of Christ of which you are a part, blend your voice as one with that great voice in praise and thanksgiving, in hope and in joy, in compassion and in love.

The third step, Philippart says, is to "listen." (He says it's hard work!) Watch for it in the next issue of *In Focus*.

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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Ellen Noonan

Potato Soup

- 1 bag of Potatoes O'Brien (frozen)
- 2 cans of fat-free chicken broth
- 1 pkg. of fat-free or low-fat white country gravy mix
- grated cheese



Heat broth to boiling, and add potatoes. Cook about 10 minutes, and then stir in gravy mix. Heat another 10 minutes, or until it starts to thicken. Serve topped with grated cheese.



St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Chris Angel, Carol Bosley, Mary Lee Brady, Sharon Dorsey, Frances Drone-Silvers, Tracey Johnson, Fr. Gene Kane, Peggy Loftus, Jean McDonald, Mary Lou Menches, Cheryl Mitchell, Lenore Nagele, Ellen Noonan, Ron Peters, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, and Margaret Stewart. Photos courtesy of Pat Fettig (Dr. Susan Nagele), Peggy Loftus (CREW), and Naneera Vidhayasirinun (Guild's Expo). This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by Jim Urban.



St. Patricks Parish Urbana, IL

January 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Mary Mother of God</p> <p>1</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Education Com.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>3:30pm Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:30pm Financial Affairs</p> <p>3</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm Rel Ed St. Joesph 7pm RCIA</p> <p>4</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Building & Grounds 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Communications</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr. & Sr. High Rel Ed</p> <p>8</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer</p> <p>9</p>	<p>7:30pm Parish Council Exec. Com.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 9am Schola 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Rel Ed St. Joesph 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA</p> <p>11</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir</p> <p>12</p>	<p>10:45am Communion Service CCNH 10:30am Mass Care Center</p> <p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>9am RCIA 9:15am Rel Ed 10:15am K of C 6:30pm Jr. & Sr. High Rel Ed 6:30pm Confirmation Mtg 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study</p> <p>15</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer 1:30, 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>16</p>	<p>7pm Liturgy 12pm Bible Study</p> <p>17</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 11:30am, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Child Choir 6:30pm Rel Ed St. J 6:15pm Soc Action 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA 7pm Special Treasures</p> <p>18</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir 7pm Parish Council 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>19</p>	<p>10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH</p> <p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>9am RCIA 9:15am Rel Ed 4pm Ecumenical Vespers 6:30pm Jr. & Sr. High Rel Ed 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Prep</p> <p>22</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer 1:30, 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>23</p>	<p>12pm Bible Study</p> <p>24</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 9am Schola 11:30am, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Rel Ed St. J 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA</p> <p>25</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir 7pm Communications 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>26</p>	<p>6pm CREW Spaghetti Dinner 10:45am Mass CCNH</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Vietnamese New Year Celebration</p> <p>28</p>
<p>6:30pm Leaders Bible Study</p> <p>29</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer 1:30, 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>30</p>	<p>12pm Bible Study</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is January 15.</p>			